



What To Look For To Get The Best Gaming Internet Service

You're quietly aiming at your target. To the delight of your Twitch followers, he's looking over the ledge and has no idea you're standing a few feet behind him. You're just waiting for the perfect moment, laughing to yourself as you grab another slice of pizza. It's go time. In 5, 4, 3, 2...what? Suddenly, your internet connection starts going haywire. Your game is frozen for what feels like an eternity, and you reconnect just in time to go down. So much for that flawless victory.

When it comes to gaming on any platform or console, having fast, reliable internet is the master key to unlocking a great gaming experience. Whether you're a casual gamer or a soon-to-be streaming star, there are a few things you may want to consider when searching for the best internet service provider to meet your specific gaming needs.

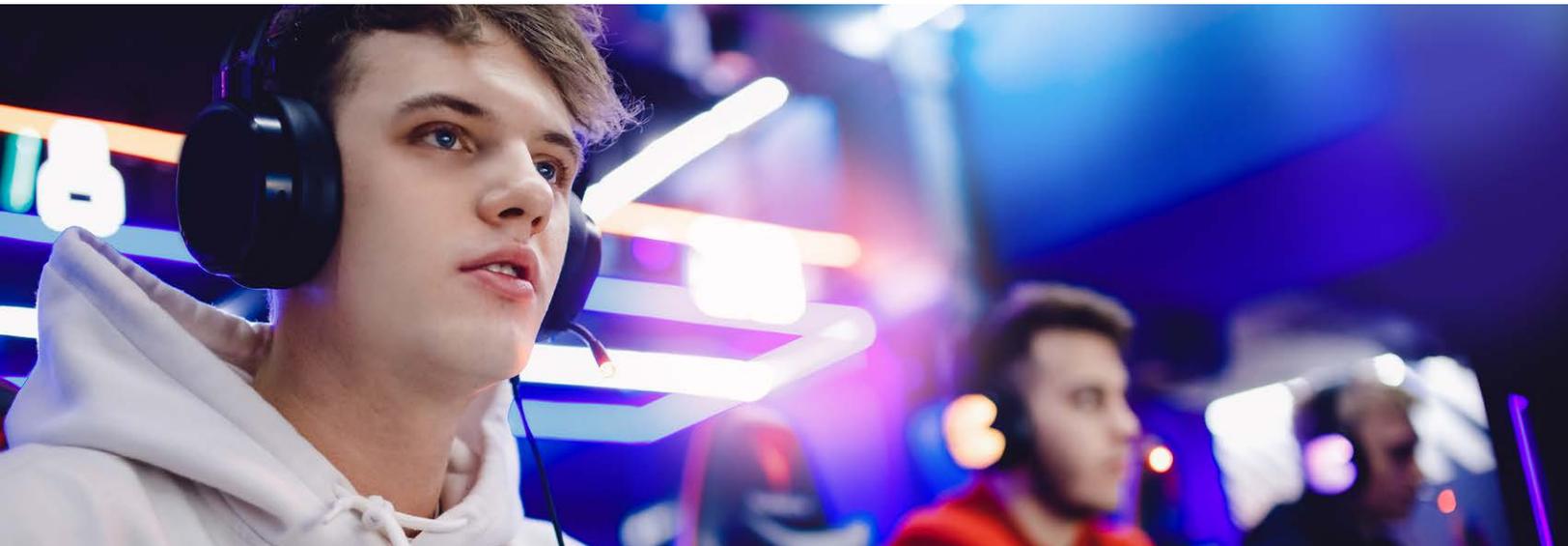
Despite what's advertised, it's not all about fast download speeds, though those can help. And, while some of this advice might be overkill for the most casual of gamers out there, **if you regularly play or consume content and want the best possible gaming experience, investing in the right plan and equipment will pay off in the end.**



High Speeds for Downloading Games

As game discs continue to go the way of the dinosaur, the new normal is to purchase and download games directly to your system via your internet connection. With many popular game titles now pushing over 50GB in size, if you have a slow or inconsistent internet connection, you may be waiting a while before you can enjoy that exciting new content. And forget about video streaming or running other programs that need extensive bandwidth at the same time - there's simply not enough speed or bandwidth to go around.

In most cases, it's recommended that gamers look for plans with minimum download and upload speeds of at least 25 Mbps. Of course, if you plan to stream simultaneously, play cloud-based or graphic-intensive online games, or download multiple game titles each month with services like Xbox Game Pass or Playstation Now, **a faster connection, ranging from 50-150 Mbps, will be needed to ensure a fast pace of download, while maintaining high-quality graphics and keeping your lag to a minimum.** You may also want to bump up your plan speeds if there are multiple people in your household who will be running devices on the same network at the same time.



Online Gaming Speed Requirements for Every Household

Household Type	Download Speeds	Upload Speeds
Small Households (1-2)	25-50 Mbps	1-5 Mbps
Medium Households (2-3)	50-150 Mbps	1-10 Mbps
Large Households (4+) and Streamers	150+ Mbps	10+ Mbps



Unlimited Bandwidth Without Data Caps

With game sizes continuing to increase with each new release, it's important to read the fine print when it comes to your ISP's plan data caps. Plenty of gamers have been caught off guard, not realizing that their internet plan comes with fees or penalties — like data throttling — for customers who go over a set monthly data limit. With a growing number of internet-enabled devices constantly consuming your data, and consumers spending more time at home, you can easily see how quickly a household could climb over that limit, especially if you tend to download multiple new games each month.



Depending on your service provider, this may result in paying extra fees for each GB over your cap, or even having your service completely shut-off for a period of time. These penalties can add up quickly and be a big headache. As a best practice, even with plans advertised as “unlimited,” **it's important to review and be aware of your ISP's data caps when choosing your plan to avoid those big surprises, and keep your gaming interruptions to a minimum.**

If you're not aware of how much data you use as a household month to month, some ISPs provide tools that will help keep you up-to-date on how much data you've used and which devices are using the most.



Ping Optimization and Boosting Gameplay

Beyond simply having a fast connection with plenty of bandwidth, **the key to a winning internet connection for gaming: optimizing ping and latency.** When the outcome of any given match comes down to the last second, minimizing the delay caused by high latency or a spike in your ping — otherwise known as lag — can be crucial to your success. Luckily, you don't have to be an expert to test your network ping or latency, as there are several **internet speed tests** available out there, and some ISPs even offer their own tools to help monitor network performance.

For gaming, the maximum ping you probably want is between 75-100 milliseconds (ms). Of course, the lower you can get that speed, which measures the time it takes a data packet to boomerang from your device to the server and back again, the smoother gameplay you'll be able to achieve online.

So, what's the magic number? A ping in the range of 10-30 ms would be ideal for most gaming situations. You could have the fastest rig, with everything overclocked and liquid-cooled, but if your network is prone to high ping spikes, you're likely to experience issues and frustration.

Router Quality and Proper Setup Matters

When it comes to lag, it's not always your internet connection that's the culprit. You might be able to reduce your ping or latency on your own with a few simple tricks and a properly configured router.

For the best gaming connection, you'll most likely want to rely on a wired, gigabit ethernet connection instead of wireless, when possible. A wired connection will most assuredly provide a more stable, low-latency connection than a typical wireless connection for most routers. If you do have to use Wi-Fi, properly positioning your system or console near your router will help eliminate interference from walls or other electrical devices that may hinder your internet connection. You'll also want to look for a dual-band router with 802.11ac Wi-Fi capability — or even better Wi-Fi 6, which can boost your network speed for gaming by keeping your highest-priority devices in one channel, while moving slower devices to the other, freeing up bandwidth.



Maintaining Video Quality While Streaming

You've got a gaming empire to build — don't let your internet connection hold you back. While it's true most games can operate with a low bandwidth as long as your ping is low and steady, streaming is a different beast entirely. If you plan to slay that beast, you'll want to **ensure you get a plan capable of maintaining a low latency while providing plenty of bandwidth for fast download speeds, and even more importantly, fast upload speeds for maintaining a smooth video stream quality while live.** Some ISPs only advertise their download speeds, so you'll want to ask about upload speeds if the information isn't readily available.



Depending on your streaming service and setup, you may have more options available to help your system and network balance between stream quality and maintaining a consistent, lag-free connection. With Twitch streaming, you're likely broadcasting using OBS, or Open Broadcasting Software. This software often has capabilities to help you optimize your stream by inputting your upload speeds, the game title you're playing, and your specific graphics card and CPU. From there, you can make the necessary tweaks to your gaming setup to minimize interruptions and maximize your video quality. While the most you're probably looking at for Twitch is 720p broadcasting, YouTube offers even more options for video quality, including: 360p, 480p, 720p and 1080p. Because systems and connections vary widely, you'll need to play with your settings a little to get the right balance for your needs.

Internet Connection Types For Gaming

The type of internet you choose can also make an impact on your gaming capabilities. From DSL connections that rely on local phone lines to cable internet options and more, there are likely several types of connection available near you. There are pros and cons to each option, but in general, you'll want to avoid wireless or satellite based connections, often available in more rural areas, as they tend to have more issues with high latency than other connection types.

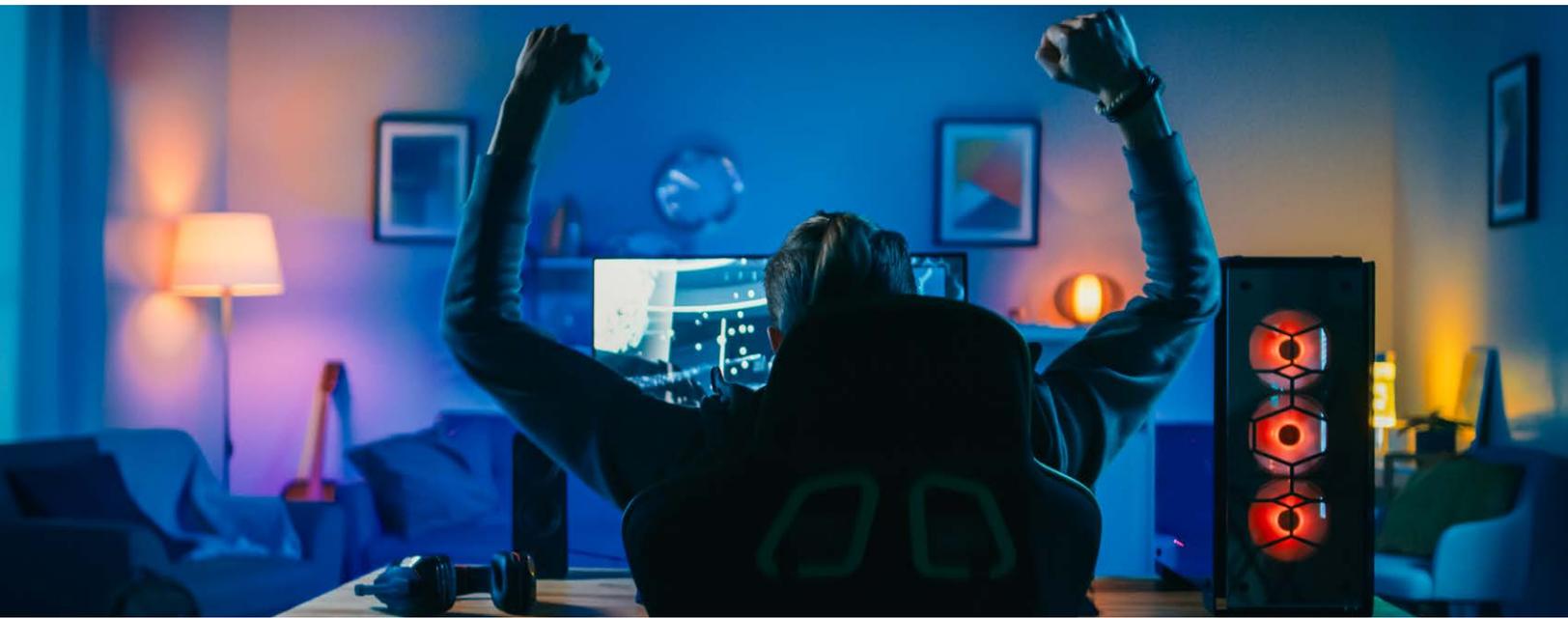
While it's not required for most gaming, the emergence of residential fiber internet and other technologies capable of producing speeds up to one gig, for downloads and uploads alike, is changing the landscape of online gaming and becoming more widely available everyday. If you're a gamer and creator that constantly rolls out new content for your fans with live streams and uploads, **gig-speed internet would be a great option to make sure your internet can keep up with your ambitious goals.** Check with your provider to see if this option is available in your service area.



Level Up with Kinetic Internet and Game On

As you can see, whether you're going for the big team win in Fortnite, sharing a stream of your latest Minecraft architectural wonder, or battling the hordes in your favorite MMORPG, **a strong internet connection and properly set up network can make the difference between enjoying your victory and wallowing in agonizing defeat.** To summarize:

- Look for high speeds for fast downloads
- Opt for a true unlimited plan with no data caps
- Optimize your network for low ping and latency
- Check upload speeds and bandwidth if you plan to stream
- For serious gaming, go big on gig speed, if available in your area



At the end of the day, figuring out the right plan for you based on your habits and needs may take some time and tinkering, but it's going to be worth the investment to play your favorite titles as they were truly intended to be played: seamless, immersive and captivating.

Kinetic Internet provides everything a gamer needs! Say goodbye to slow speeds, low video quality and lagging problems. We have you covered. **Learn more on our website**, and level up to our fastest speeds on our most reliable network today!

Happy Gaming!

